

SUBJECT: Revising regulation of barbers

COMMITTEE: Public Health: favorable, with amendments

VOTE: 5 ayes--Wright, J. Harris, Hilderbran, McDonald, Rodriguez  
0 nays  
4 absent--Clemons, Madla, Park, Schoolcraft

WITNESSES: For--Eddie Lame, Jo King McCrorey, State Board of Barber Examiners. (Registering in support but not testifying-- William Maddox, Alvin Glick, State Board of Barber Examiners; Edward Borkland)  
Against--None

DIGEST: HB 460, as amended, would make various revisions in the laws governing the State Board of Barber Examiners, barbers and barber schools. It would also add regulation of manicurist and wig shops.

Prospective students of barber schools would have to pay a maximum \$25 application or transfer fee each time they enroll or re-enroll in a program. Students would become eligible for enrollment at age 16, instead of 16 1/2. Licensed barbers with five years experience could qualify as teachers, without additional study.

The requirements for barber schools would be revised pertaining to hours of instruction, submission of monthly reports and curricula. Instructional criteria would be set for barber technicians, wig instructors, wig specialists, manicurists and teachers, as well as for Class A Barbers

HB 460 would establish the "specialty shop" as a new category of business, allowing those trained as manicurists and wig specialists to operate shops independently.

The bill would impose a delinquency fee on licensees that fail to renew their permits on time and would change other technical rules about licensing and license requirements.

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Various health and safety related provisions would be revised or adding, including prohibiting the use of bristled neck dusters and excluding from shops any animals except those trained to aid the handicapped or used as guard dogs. Barber technicians would be allowed to perform facials.

Barber shops and specialty shops located in the same building with any business other than a beauty salon or shoe shine business would have to be separated from the other business by a solid wall and have a separate entrance.

SUPPORTERS  
SAY:

The current laws regulating barbering reflect outdated concepts and ways of doing business and should be modernized to accommodate new trends in health standards, consumer demands and educational requirements. These regulatory changes would better protect consumers and assist barber schools in training students. New and increased fees would raise additional revenue to cover the cost of the regulatory changes.

Barbers are the only regulated professionals that do not pay a penalty for failure to renew a license on time; this bill would allow the board of examiners to collect a fee for each year, up to five years, in which a license was not renewed.

The bill would help more people qualify for barbering jobs. Lowering an applicant's minimum age would allow high school dropouts to enter barbering sooner. Licensed barbers with adequate experience would be able to get teaching jobs without having to go through more schooling.

Creating new classes of licensees and specialty shops would recognize changing times and consumer demands and open new opportunities for shop ownership by those specializing in manicuring and wig fitting and styling.

OPPONENTS  
SAY:

Barber school students should not have to pay a high fee every time they transfer to a different school or re-enroll after having discontinued their studies for a time. Money problems are often the reason why students drop out of barber schools in the first place; many students may never return if they must pay another enrollment fee in order to continue their education. Neither should students be penalized for switching to a

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different school; transfers among schools are common and often occur because of personality conflicts with teachers or other students.

The regulations should not be changed to allow barbers who do not have extra training to become teachers in barber schools. Currently, teachers must have 1,000 hours of study more than those required for a Class A Barber. Allowing barbers with five years experience to teach would assume that anyone with experience not only understands the scientific theories involved in barbering but also has the ability to teach barbering skills. This change would allow marginally qualified barbers to cram just enough to pass the teacher's examination, leading to a possible reduction in the quality of teachers and ultimately of the barbers they train.

NOTES:

Both committee amendments to HB 460 make changes in technical language regarding laundry.